

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Comparison Example C+ 2. Performed in an identical manner to example 3, except that 1.00 g of a 10 % dispersion of chelex 100<sup>®</sup> (Biorad) were used in place of the derivatized nanoparticles A. The results are reported in Table 2.

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